

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05742 300630Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 /071 W

----- 035607

R 291543Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9323

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5742

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, PLO, XF

SUBJECT: KHADDAM DISCUSSES LEBANON

### 1. SUMMARY:

KHADDAM CLAIMS SYRIA HAS NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON REPORTED AL PLAN FOR LEBANESE SOLUTION. HE INDICATED SYRIA INTENDED MAINTAIN ITS FORCES IN PLACE, AT SAME TIME DECRYING JUMBLATT'S MANEUVERS TO IMPLICATE SYRIANS AS A PARTY TO THE CONFLICTM SAID SYRIA HAD NO EVIDENCE OF CHANGE IN FATAH'S THINKING MORE FAVORABLE TOWARDS SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON. END SUMMARY

2. DISCUSSED WITH KHADDAM AUGUST 29 HIS CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN LEBANON. SAID THAT I HAD DISCERNED IN SEVERAL REPORTS EMANATING FROM BEIRUT A MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAD HEARD OF A NEW DISPOSITION OF FATAH'S PART TO SEEK RAPPROACHEMENT WITH DAMASCUS AND ACCEPT THE SYRIAN PRESENCE AND POLITICAL ROLE IN LEBANON. (IN ANSWER KHADDAM'S QEUSTION WHETHER THIS INFORMATION CAME CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05742 300630Z

FROM FATAH OR OTHER SOURCES, I NOTED WE HAD NO DIRECT

CONTACTS BUT THAT REPORTS CAME FROM THOSE WHO APPEARED TO HAVE GOOD CONTACTS WITH FATAH.) CERTAIN OTHER REPORTS DESCRIBED AL INITIATIVES WHICH, IF ACCURATELY REPORTED, ALSO APPEARED TO SUGGEST NEW MOVEMENT TOWARDS A POLITICAL SOLUTION. THEN CITED A FEW POINTS IN THE REPORTED AL PLAN. (BEIRUT 7105, PARA 3).

KHADDAM REPLIED THAT SYRIA HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLEGED AL PLAN. HE THEN DELIVERED ESSENTIALLY LEGALISTIC PRESENTATION, LONG ON GENERALITIES AND WOEFULLY SHORT ON POLITICAL OR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OTHER THAN CONSTITUTING A REMINDER SYRIA WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS HARD LINE POSITION.

3. FIRST, HE EMPHASIZED, SYRIA IS NOT PARTY TO THE LEBANESE CONFLICT WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN. THUS IT IS OUT OF ORDER TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF SYRIAN FORCES AS BEING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFLICT. SYRIA HAS SENT A "PEACE FORCE" INTO LEBANON. WHEN THERE IS A MOVE TOWARDS PEACE "OUR FORCES SHOULD LOGICALLY MOVE FORWARD AND NOT BACKWARD." THEY CANNOT PULL BACK BECAUSE A SYRIAN PULLBACK WOULD ONLY PERMIT FIGHTING TO RESUME. SYRIA HAS PROVED ITS ABILITY TO RESTORE PEACE IN WIDE AREAS IN LEBANON. ANY PLAN, WHETHER FROM AL OR OTHER SOURCE, MUST BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THOSE WHO DOING THE ACTUAL FIGHTING. IN ANY CASE, NOTHING HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO DAMASCUS.

4. KHADDAM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD HEARD SIMILAR TALK ABOUT AN AL PLAN FROM THE LEBANESE MEDIA. SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT JUMBLATT AND SOME OF HIS LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN ALLIES ARE DETERMINED TO PURSUE THE FIGHTING. "DRAGGING THE SYRIAN FORCES INTO THE DISCUSSION IS A JUMBLATTI MANEUVER. HE SEEKS PARTITION AND OPPOSES PEACE BECAUSE HE KNOWS IF PEACE IS SECURED THAT THE LEBANESE PEOPLE WILL CALL HIM HARSHLY TO ACCOUNT."

5. SYRO-FATAH RELATIONS:

CONCERNING FATAH, KHADDAM SAID THAT SYRIA HAD REACHED THE JULY 29 AGREEMENT WITH THE PLO BUT THE PALESTINIANS HAD NOT IMPLEMENTED THEIR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN. SYRIA HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 05742 300630Z

RECEIVED NO INDICATION AS YET THAT FATAH WAS RETHINKING ITS STATED OPPOSITION TO SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA WAS IN LEBANON TO RESTORE CONDITIONS OF PEACE AND SECURITY. WHEN THE LEBANESE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES ARE ABLE TO EXERCISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, THEN THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON.

6. KHADDAM RETURNED TO THE ISSUE OF JUMBLATT'S LEADERSHIP, ASKING RHETORICALLY IF HE AND HIS ALLIES WANT TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE WHY HAVE THEY BUILT THE AIRFIELDS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHY HAVE THEY EQUIPPED THEM TO SUCH A LEVEL OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND WHY ARE THEY MAINTAINING A MAJOR FLOW OF WEAPONS FROM ARAB AND NON-ARAB COUNTRIES? ASKED WHO WAS OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT AT THE AIRFIELDS, KHADDAM REPLIED THEY WERE VARIED: LEBANESE, PALESTINIANS AND "FOREIGNERS". (HE CLARIFIED THAT, ACCORDING SYRIAN INFORMATION, THE SOUTHERN AIRFIELDS WERE READY FOR USE BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN PUT INTO SERVICE.)

7. ARAB LEAGUE FORCES:

I OBSERVED THAT THE ALLEGED AL PROPOSAL WAS OBVIOUSLY PREDICATED ON BOTH A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN AL FORCES IN THE LEBANON AND IMPROVED EQUIPMENT. KHADDAM REPLIED THAT THE AL FORCES HAD BEEN SUPPOSED TO RESTORE PEACE IN BEIRUT BUT THEY WERE NOT EVEN ABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND TO CARRY OUT A TASK SUCH AS TO TRANSPORT THE WAGES OF CIVIL SERVANTS FROM WEST TO EAST BEIRUT. ARMED MEN HAD INTERCEPTED A RECENT SHIPMENT OF SUCH FUNDS.

8. FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE:

ASKED IF HE PLANNED TO ATTEND THE FONMIN'S CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 2, KHADDAM REPLIED HE HAD ONLY HEARD ABOUT SUCH CONFERENCE ON THE RADIO AND HAD RECEIVED NO FORMAL INVITATION. DEPFONMIN RAFI COMMENTED TODAY TO MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR THAT IT WAS YET BE DECIDED WHETHER HE OR KHADDAM WOULD REPRESENT SYRIA AT REGULAR AL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 4).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAMASC 05742 300630Z

9. SUMMIT CONFERENCE: FONMIN RECALLED SYRIA HAD WELCOMED THE CONVENING OF AN ARAB SUMMIT AND STILL HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE HELD. HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON THE QUESTIONS OF EITHER VENUE OR TIMING.

10. COMMENT:

KHADDAM HAD HIS GUARD WAY UP IN COMMENTING ON REPORTED AL PROPOSALS. TECHNICALLY HE MAY HAVE BEEN ACCURATE THAT AL PROPOSAL HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY PRESENTED TO SRG. HOWEVER, AFTERNOON NEWS BROADCAST STATED THAT AL NEGOTIATOR AL-KHULI HAS TODAY ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS. WHATEVER IDEAS HE MAY HAVE WILL PRESUMABLY BE GIVEN EITHER TO KHADDAM OR ASAD SHORTLY. AT SAME TIME KHADDAM MAY HAVE BEEN SIGNALLING SYRIA'S DISINTEREST IN AL ACTIVITIES

GENERALLY AND THE DETERMINATION OF DAMASCUS TO PURSUE ITS OWN  
POLICY IN LEBANON FULL STEAM AHEAD.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC05742  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760329-0222  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976089/aaaaahfo.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KHADDAM DISCUSSES LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE, XF, PLO, (KHADDAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006